

# A WINCHESTER LETTER.

[Correspondence of the Philada. Inquirer.]

WINCHESTER, Va., Feb. 9.—The excitement created by the attack upon the stage from Martinsburg has, in a great measure, subsided.—The provision trains go out well protected. One man, bushwhacker, was brought into camp yesterday. The stage starts at seven o'clock in the morning, and arrives at noon.

Several houses can be seen here, built by the Hessians, after the surrender of Lord Cornwallis, at Yorktown. These men were prisoners, and many among them were stone-masons. The houses are solidly built, and, as far as the masonry is concerned, remain in a good state of preservation.

Notes of the Bank of Winchester pass readily for commodities, and are considered good. Their assets are available, and the only depreciation is the present effect of the war on property.

But few farming hands remain in the valley of the Shenandoah.

Without facility for transportation is afforded to the people, provisions of all kinds must remain exceedingly high in this section, as the home market is but a small inducement for the raising of crops.

The men of the Thirteenth Pennsylvania cavalry regiment have nearly completed the camp, and but a very few days will elapse when they will be as comfortable as the circumstances of camp life will admit.

Great indignation exists against Captain D. W. Hieskell, the post commissary, (and a native of the town of Winchester,) among the secession portion of the town, unmeritedly.—The Captain is charged with the firing of the commissary houses before the retreat of General Banks. This charge is without the slightest foundation.

**DETECTIVE SHOT.**—About a week since, Mr. Baker, provost marshal of the War Department, sent Messrs. Sherman and Trail, two of his detectives, to Leesburg, with instructions to keep an eye on certain parties there. Yesterday, these gentlemen arrived in the city, having been captured and paroled by a party of guerrillas, under the following circumstances: Messrs. Sherman and Trail were overhauling the baggage of the stage passengers at the store between Berlin and Leesburg, when a shot was fired at them through the door. They immediately placed themselves outside the store, and prepared to defend themselves as best they could. Several shots were fired by each party, one of the balls passing through the arm of Mr. Sherman, and the latter killing the lieutenant commanding the squad, who were four to one.—The guerrillas sent in a formal demand under a flag of truce, for the detectives to surrender unconditionally. This demand they refused to accede to. Several written communications passed between the parties, the storekeeper acting as bearer of dispatches. At length the detectives consented to surrender, if their captors would parole them immediately. In reply, the spokesman of the guerrillas signified his willingness to accept their surrender on those conditions, and requested them to send their arms by the storekeeper. The detectives directed the storekeeper to inform the guerrillas that they would surrender their arms when they were furnished with a written parole, properly signed, and not before. The Confederates forthwith sent the required document, and then took possession of their arms, horses, and whatever valuables they had about them. The wound of Mr. Sherman is quite painful, but it is not apprehended that he will be permanently disabled.—[Wash. Chronicle.]

It is said that on Thursday, Baker's detectives captured a large amount of goods, on the Port Tobacco, Md., road, which were about to be smuggled across the river into Virginia.

**A "CONFIDENCE" OPERATION.**—In the late battle of Fredericksburg, George McBlain, of the New York was severely wounded and brought to this city, and every attention was rendered. As soon as Robert McBlain, a substantial and aged farmer of Ontario county, near Geneva, New York, heard of his son's misfortune, he came to the city and remained with him until he died, on Tuesday last. The young soldier's remains were embalmed, and taken to the Baltimore Depot about one o'clock on Wednesday afternoon.

While at the depot, attending to his dead son on the cars, Mr. McBlain was met by a well-dressed young man, who seemed to take a lively interest in the old man's misfortunes, and rendered his kind offices in getting the remains in a safe place. The young man stated, in the course of the conversation, that he intended to leave at three o'clock for Cataraugus county, N. Y., and suggested that he hoped that it would be mutually agreeable for them to be companions, as far as Elmira, New York.—The old gentleman signified that he most gladly accepted the proposed companionship, and thought it would relieve his mind from reflection on his great grief. His "companion" then remarked that he had some business to attend to, and request Mr. McBlain to meet him in the rotunda of the Capitol at two o'clock. Accordingly, at that hour Mr. McBlain went to the rotunda, where he found the young man waiting for him. After the exchange of a few words, the latter remarked to the former that he wished to hear a member of Congress, now making a speech, through, and that he would return in plenty of time to get to the cars. He did soon return, accompanied by an old gentleman, whom he introduced as the "member from the Alleghany district, New York." The new acquaintance was as profuse in the expressions of condolence as the young man had been kind.

These preliminaries having prepared the bird for picking, the young man asked Mr. McBlain if he could give him small notes for a hundred dollar bill. Mr. McBlain replied that he did not think he had it, and proceeded to count out what he had, which was just eighty dollars. The youth replied that he would bring him large bills for it in an instant, and at the same time snatched the roll out of its owner's hands, and passed hurriedly out of the door. The truth immediately flashed across the old man's mind, but it was too late. Thief No. 1 and No. 2 had disappeared.

Fortunately, Mr. McBlain had paid the freight on his son's remains; but the money taken from him was every cent he had with him, and consequently he is unable to reach home. When he related the particulars at the office of Superintendent Webb, he appeared overwhelmed with grief and chagrin at being thus imposed upon by these heartless scoundrels.—[Wash. Chron.]

The Senate in Executive session on Friday, declined to act upon the forty Major Generals and the one hundred and fifty-four Brigadier Generals nominated to that body. The list was returned to the President for revision.—The disposition is that such officers shall be judiciously selected from those now in the field to the number of twenty Major Generals and fifty Brigadier Generals, as additionally provided by the Senate bill which was passed yesterday.

The report of the Committee on Territories made by Senator Wade in answer to a resolution, shows that the Utah Legislature suppressed the message of the Governor of that Territory—that no freedom of suffrage is allowed or opinions tolerated in opposition to the Mormon church dignitaries—that polygamy is practised to the extent of incest—that there is no law giving redress to the abuses of the marriage relation, and the Mormons are openly inimical to the Government of the United States, though in the popular phrase steadfast adherents of the Constitution.

# JUST RECEIVED.

3000 bushels Potatoes.  
300 bbls. do.  
500 " Prime Apples.  
100 " Cider.  
75 " Pickles.  
100 kegs Glades Butter.  
50 " Goshen do.  
25 bbls. Prime Roll do.  
200 York State Cheese.  
200 English Dairy do.  
9,000 lbs. Codfish.  
10 bbls. Fresh Eggs.

Also, keep constantly on hand, Syrup, Sugar, Hams, Mackerel, Herring, Tobacco, Segars, Sutler's supplies. &c. &c.

PITKIN & CO.  
No. 25, King street.

jan 17—1m

JOHN T. COOKE,

**CHEAP FAMILY GROCER,**  
CORNER PITT AND PRINCE STREETS.  
HAS constantly on hand, Nos. 1, 2 and 3 Mackerel, in barrels, half barrels, and kits; Salmon, Potomac Herring, Smoked Halibut, Smoked Herring, and Smoked Beef. Also, a choice brand of Sugar Cured Hams, for family use; Shoulders and Breasts, and a general assortment of goods for family supplies. Call and examine.  
dec 2

E. S. FLEMING,

**WATCHMAKER AND JEWELER,**  
NO. 86 KING STREET.  
WATCHES, CLOCKS and JEWELRY carefully repaired, and all work warranted.  
ed.

Old Gold and Silver purchased at the highest rates.

CLOCKS put in repair at the shortest notice.  
jan 23—1m

C. C. BRADLEY,

*Cabinet, Chair and Sofa Manufactory,*  
CORNER KING AND ALFRED STREETS,  
ALEXANDRIA, VA.

HAS constantly on hand, and offers to the public, an excellent assortment of CABINET WARE, SOFAS and CHAIRS of every variety, and on the lowest cash terms, which, for durability and finish, cannot be surpassed.  
my 16—tf

F. G. SWAINE & CO.

**CHEAP FAMILY GROCERY,**  
No. 26 North Royal street.

A full supply of family groceries always on hand.  
jan 18

# ACCOMMODATION EXPRESS

BETWEEN

**WASHINGTON AND ALEXANDRIA.**

THE undersigned begs to inform the citizens of Alexandria and vicinity that he will, on Monday, January 26th, commence running an EXPRESS between Alexandria and Washington, for the purpose of conveying any and all articles (not contraband) of freight. Orders may be left at Rosenthal's shoe store, No. 88 King street, Alexandria, or at McGregor's furniture store, No. 530 7th street, Washington. All business entrusted to his care will be promptly attended to. The patronage of the public is respectfully solicited.  
jan 16—1m

W. M. DODGE.

**CORN MEAL AND HORSE FEED.**—The subscribers, having rented the mill lately occupied by Meade & Marye, on Union street, No. 49, are now grinding.

**CORN MEAL AND HORSE FEED,**  
which will be sold, in quantities to suit purchasers, at the lowest market price.  
nov 17—3m

DELAHAY & BROWN.

# THE CHEAPEST

**COAL OIL,**

In the city, to be had at

**COGAN'S,**

NO. 15 ROYAL STREET.

25 BBLs. of the best OIL ever manufactured just received.

On hand, a large and splendid assortment of LAMPS, of all styles, together with GAS FIXTURES in variety, at extremely low prices. Look to your interest, and call at the right place.  
jan 26—tf

JOHN E. HENDERSON,

**WHOLESALE AND RETAIL GROCER.**  
226, CORNER KING AND ALFRED STREETS.

HAS constantly on hand a large and well selected stock of FAMILY GROCERIES, which he offers cheap for cash.  
sep 20—tf